(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen a report of a statement to this effect by the Deputy Prime Minister of Mauritius.

(b) to (d) Government have in all international fora consistently acknowledged Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago including Diego Garcia and called for its return to Mauritius. Government have associated themselves with the same position taken by the Non-aligned Movement. The Non-aligned Foreign Ministers' Conference held in Cyprus in September 1988 also expressed concern over the strengthening of the military base at Diego Garcia whose establishment has endangered the sovereignty, territorial integrity and peaceful development of Mauritius and other states. The Foreign Ministers called for the early return of Diego Garcia to Mauritius

Creation of SAARC Fund

854. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of SAARC to create a SAARC Fund to remove trade imbalances in the South Asian region; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Notice for Strike by Employees and Workers of Eastern Railway

855. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Employees and workers of the Eastern Railway had given notice for strike, if their demands were not conceded to by 31st March, 1989;

(b) if so, what is the nature of these demands; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

New Railway Line between Raichur and Macherla in Andhra Pradesh

956. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision in respect of new railway line between Raichur and Macherla in Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, at what stage the matter rests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) A survey for a new B.G. railway line between Raichur and Macherla (260 km) is in progress.

Recruitment in the Archaeological Survey of India

857. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government effected certain amendments to the Recruitment Rules of the Group 'A' Officers of the Archaeological Survey of India in 1982 adversely affecting a larger section of the officers and without considering and disposing of the legitimate objections raised by some officers of the general cadre, in order to bring the heads of specialised branches like, Science, Conservation and Opigraphy into general cadre for promotion to

the post of Joint Director General onward, ignoring the fact that the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of the higher posts are mainly oriented to discipline of archaeology;

(b) whether it is also a fact that due to the above fact that officers of Archaeological Survey of India have no chance to become the Director General after the retirement of the present incumbent in the middle of 1990; and

(c) whether Government propose to re-examine the anomalies in the recruitment rules of Gorup 'A' Offices and restore status quo ante; and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) The recruitment rules of Group 'A' post were amended in 1982 keeping in view all the relevant considerations and by following the prescribed procedure.

(b) This is only incidental and not due to any procedural defect in the Recruitment Rules for the post of Director General.

(c) At present there is no such proposal.

Change in the Timings of Neelachal Group of Trains

858. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to change the timings of Neelachal group of trains and put them in the May, 1988 schedule;

(b) whether it is a fact that the change of timings according to May, 1988 schedule will again create some problems and put the same inconvenience to the passengers;

(c) if so, whether any judicious and suitable timings would be fixed for those trains running between Delhi and Puri; and

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The schedules of these trains have been revised to the pattern of May, 88 schedule with effect from May 89.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Harassment of Indians in Bhutan

859. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reports that a sizeable number of Indian labourers have been forced to leave Phuntsolong and other areas of Bhutan;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Indians occupying senior positions in both official and commercial establishments are preparing to leave Bhutan because of harassment; and

(c) if so, what steps Government are taking to protect the interests of Indians there and to meet the changing situation?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Government have seen reports to this effect,

(b) No, Sir.

The Government are aware only about expulsion of non-nationals in Bhutan without valid documents. Most of them were nationals of countries other than India.